

HONORING NORMAN MOLLARD, JR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor LCDR Norman Mollard, Jr. Lieutenant Commander Mollard is an asset to the City of Palestine and one of our country's true patriots. When he joined the Navy in September of 1942, Norman began a journey that would earn him the prestigious Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Presidential Unit Citation with three stars among many other honors. During World War II, he was stationed aboard the USS *San Jacinto*, where he received the honorable designation of Fighter Ace.

After retiring from the Navy in July 1969, LCDR Mollard returned to Palestine where he continues to work to preserve the history and culture of east Texas. He is an active member of the Palestine Chamber of Commerce and spends much of his time volunteering at the Museum for East Texas Culture, the YMCA, and the Humane Society. He also participates in the Downtown Merchants Association, the Lions Club, and the local Masonic Lodge. LCDR Mollard's active life has been a service both to the City of Palestine and to our Nation.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative of the City of Palestine, Texas, it is my pleasure to congratulate Norman Mollard on his many accomplishments. I am sure that Norman's 6 children and many grandchildren are very proud of what he has accomplished in such a long and distinguished lifetime.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, this year marks my 30th year in public service. On November 8, 1994, I was honored to be elected to represent the citizens of the 18th District. After working for Congressman Bob Michel and Congressman Tom Railsback for 17 years in the minority party, I never imagined that first election night would cap the day that swept the Republican Party back into the majority on Capitol Hill.

Since that first election almost 13 years ago, I have always maintained that this was not a lifetime job. The time has come to honor that commitment.

Therefore, today I am announcing that I will not run for re-election in 2008. There is still much to be done in the 110th Congress, and I look forward to that work, but I will retire from public life at the conclusion of this term in January of 2009.

I truly believe that public service is a noble profession. The citizens of the 18th District, by electing me as their Representative in the U.S. House, have given me a wonderful opportunity to serve not only them, but all the people of Illinois and of our great country. Being chosen by one's neighbors to represent them in Congress is one of the greatest honors free people can bestow on a fellow citizen. I owe a great debt of gratitude to my supporters for this chance to serve.

It is hard to express in words what it means to have the opportunity to represent a district which was once represented by such political giants as Abraham Lincoln, Everett Dirksen, and Bob Michel.

Today I cannot help but think of my parents who instilled in me an ethic of hard work and my grandparents, who immigrated to the U.S. through Ellis Island and eventually settled in Peoria. They were welcomed with the typical generosity and warmth that characterizes our part of the world. They were good citizens, who worked hard, and raised a great family. That their grandson was able to become a U.S. Representative is proof that "the American dream" is not just a slogan but a continuing living reality to those who are willing to make it work. I know that is true, because my fellow citizens helped me live that dream.

In the end it is my family to whom I will be forever indebted. During the past 30 years, my family, and particularly my wife Kathy, has carried many burdens and responsibilities alone as I spent time away from them in an effort to live out my political dream and fulfill my obligations as a public servant. They have supported and encouraged me over the past three decades.

It is time for me to attempt to repay that debt, and I truly look forward to many wonderful years with my wife, my children, and my grandchildren.

God bless the citizens of Illinois who have given me this wonderful opportunity. God bless my family for everything they have endured, and God bless the United States of America.

"MARVIN ZINDLER—EYEWITNESS NEWS"

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, to the residents of Houston and the surrounding cities, the name "Marvin Zindler" was synonymous with "champion" and "crusader." You see, Marvin Zindler has just as many stories as the Lone Ranger himself—just as many tales about his struggles for justice too. He was a fighter for the "little man," defending those who were swindled or scammed—seeking retribution the only way he knew how, with a bright light, an all-seeing camera lens, and a television audience.

For the last thirty-four years, Marvin has been the much loved and revered face of television station KTRK Channel 13 in Houston, Texas. He was known for his consumer reporting—one of the first in the business to do so—letting the unsuspecting public in on the down and dirty dealing of local businesses throughout Southeast Texas. It was his thirst for integrity and justice among his fellow citizens that led Marvin to work day in and out to unmask the unscrupulous. But to truly understand Marvin, you have to understand the man behind the camera—who he was before he became "The Marvin Zindler."

Marvin was born into the wealth and privilege of society in 1921 and he was not sure where he wanted to go in his life. Torn between careers, Marvin came roaring into the media world as a DJ and spot reporter for a

former, local radio station. He moved onto a career with a former Houston newspaper and did spot news reports for a local television station. It was during his early stint in the media that Marvin began to lean towards the law enforcement profession. In the early 1950s, he was a volunteer police officer—all while continuing to be a voice in the media.

In 1962, Marvin put aside his media career and became a member of the Sheriffs Department. Assigned to the fugitive apprehension unit, it was his responsibility to round and rope up those who sought to flee American justice. Madam Speaker, legend has it that Marvin Zindler once chased a Texas fugitive through the heat of the Mexican deserts and into the rainforests of Central America, where he caught up with the Texas outlaw in what was then the U.S. held territory of the Panama Canal Zone. Marvin had a U.S. warrant for this criminal's arrest, but it was not sufficient enough to arrest him in Mexico or Central America. So he just waited until the fugitive touched U.S. soil—the Panama Canal. He then brought him back to face the Texas courts.

I first met Marvin back when I was a prosecutor. I have the honor and privilege of calling him a personal friend of mine and remained so throughout my judicial career. I can attest to his larger than life personality and his determination to make a difference in the world.

With the Sheriff's Department, Marvin established and ran the consumer fraud division. He was good at his job, perhaps a little too good as rumor has it. In 1972, Marvin was fired from the Sheriff's Department because local businesses were angered by his consumer fraud investigations. It was soon after his abrupt departure from law enforcement, he was hired by Channel 13 to be their on-air consumer reporter. From then on, a star was born.

Marvin Zindler stalked unscrupulous businesses like a lion stalks its prey. He was famous for his "rat and roach reports" on health inspections of local restaurants. He stood up to the bureaucrats who tried to walk on the backs of poor Houston residents, who did not have two dimes to rub together and had been swindled. He sought out immoral used car salesmen who made double-crossing deals of one-sided contracts and high interest rates—milking the consumers out of hundreds of dollars.

While the Houston public adored their TV crusader, Marvin did make some enemies, including a local county sheriff. In 1973, not yet a year into his TV career, Marvin exposed the State's best kept secret, a brothel called the Chicken Ranch in La Grange, Texas. His news story not only led to several ladies of the night being out of a job and national notoriety for his efforts and the embarrassment of local patrons, but a public fist fight with a county sheriff—who also happened to be a disheartened customer. The sheriff broke two of Marvin's ribs and snatched the toupee right off his head. It was this story that the famous long-running Broadway hit musical and eventual movie, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," was based on.

Marvin Zindler had a heart of gold. Using his fame and his voice, Marvin began "Marvin's Angels"—a group of doctors who specialized in plastic and reconstructive surgery. These doctors then performed surgery